United Nations S/2009/44

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2009
English
Original: French

Letter dated 14 January 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), I have the honour to convey to you a letter which I have received from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, transmitting the sixteenth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The report covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

09-21272 (E) 200109 270109

Annex

Letter from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

[Original: English]

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), I enclose herewith the sixteenth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see enclosure). The report covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2008. I should be grateful if you would transmit the report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report of the Secretary-General and High Representative of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2008.

2. United Nations Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007) and 1845 (2008) request that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union (EU), report to the Council on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), through the appropriate channels and at least at three monthly intervals. This document is the sixteenth such report.

II. Political background

3. The ratification process of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) by the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina was completed on 6 November.

4. Municipal elections were held on 5 October. The Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), the Party for Democratic Action (SDA) and the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HDZ BiH) won the contests among the Serb, Bosniak and Croat constituent peoples, respectively. On 8 November, SNSD, SDA and HDZ BiH met to discuss the way forward and agreed on a joint statement. The three parties made a general statement on how to advance issues related to the workplan of the Office of the High Representative, such as State property and the Brčko District, and issues important for European integration, such as census and constitutional reform.

5. On 10 November, the Council of the European Union expressed its full support for the High Representative/EU Special Representative, Miroslav Lajčák, and his efforts to ensure compliance with the Dayton/Paris Agreements and progress with reform. The Council said that the signing of the SAA constituted an important milestone in the relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union. However, it voiced deep concern about recent developments in the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly the use of nationalist rhetoric and the implementation of unilateral decisions by some leaders, thereby jeopardizing power-sharing and the foundations of the State. While reaffirming Bosnia and Herzegovina European prospects, the Council called on the Bosnian authorities to shoulder their responsibilities and to renew their efforts to push through the necessary reforms for Bosnia and Herzegovina to progress on the path towards the European Union. The Council noted with satisfaction the agreement along these lines between three of the main Bosnian parties. It called for these proposals to be rapidly put into concrete form and invited the Bosnian political forces to unite around this project. The Council reiterated its support for the aim of transition from the Office of the High Representative to a stronger European Union presence. The Council also pointed out that the Peace Implementation Council had listed five objectives and two necessary conditions for closure of the High Representative's

Office. The Council called on the Bosnian authorities to intensify their efforts to fulfil all those objectives and conditions.

6. On 19 and 20 November, the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board met to review progress on the five objectives and two conditions to be delivered by the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to allow for closure of the Office of the High Representative and transition to a reinforced EU Special Representative. The Steering Board noted that there had been little progress in addressing reform. It expressed deep concern about political developments since its last meeting on 25 and 26 June, notably the divisive rhetoric that challenged the sovereignty and constitutional order of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the authority of the High Representative and the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board.

III. Security situation and EUFOR activities

7. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period. Although nationalistic rhetoric continued, it had no impact on the safe and secure environment. EUFOR continued closely to monitor the security situation.

8. The force of some 2,200 EUFOR troops is concentrated in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in line with its mandate: providing deterrence; ensuring continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, annexes 1(a) and 2; and contributing to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment. EUFOR continues to support the Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement agencies in fighting organized crime in close cooperation with EUPM, and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the search for persons indicted for war crimes.

9. During the reporting period EUFOR, in response to ICTY requests, and with the support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and local police, carried out search operations against support networks for persons indicted for war crimes.

10. There was further progress during the reporting period in the area of joint military affairs. EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) continued to conduct joint inspections of the latter's ammunition and weapon storage sites. By the end of September, all storage sites had been inspected. AFBiH has now assumed full responsibility, but EUFOR continues to monitor and advise in order to ensure the self-sustainability of AFBiH capabilities. EUFOR continued to assist and support AFBiH with planning for the disposal of surplus arms and ammunition: the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence disposal plan was forwarded to the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina for final approval. EUFOR has made the necessary technical preparations on civilian movement control (control of the movement of weapons and ammunition by Bosnia and Herzegovina contractors) and is ready to hand over responsibility to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina once they have adopted the necessary legislation.

11. During the reporting period, EUFOR and AFBiH continued further to develop and conduct combined training based on AFBiH requests to intensify training in specific military fields.

12. On 10 November, the Council of the European Union reviewed the operation. It highlighted the decisive progress made by the operation towards accomplishing its mandate, in particular the completion of the military and stabilization tasks provided for by the Dayton/Paris Agreement. Accordingly, the Council considered that the preparatory work for a possible development of the operation should be continued, taking into account the future role of the EU Special Representative. The outcome of this preparatory work will be submitted to the Council in March 2009 so that it can take a decision on the future of the operation as soon as the conditions have been met. In this context, the Council noted that the future development of the operation would have to take political developments into account.

13. On 4 December, Major General Stefano Castagnotto succeeded Major General Ignacio Martín Villalaín as Force Commander.[1]

IV. Outlook

14. The security situation is expected to remain stable despite the prospects of continuing political tension.

[1] Beyond the reporting period but included for completeness.